

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as set forth in the following listing of the claims. The status of each claim is set forth in the listing of the claims. Claims 8 and 23 are canceled, and new claim 24 is presented.

1. (Currently amended) A carpet comprising:
 - a layer of tufting;
 - a primary backing layer receiving tufting of the tufting layer;
 - a breathable membrane impervious to liquid, and a ~~secondary~~further backing layer for protecting the membrane from abrasion, the membrane being located between the tufting layer and the ~~secondary~~further backing layer, and wherein both the tufting layer and the primary backing layer are permeable to water vapor;
 - a stabilizing layer located between the tufting layer and the breathable membrane and being in contact with the breathable membrane for dimensional stability of the carpet; and
 - wherein the ~~secondary~~further backing layer is composed of breathable material disposed on a side of the membrane opposite the tufting layer for allowing transport of water vapor through the carpet from a floor covered by the carpet while protecting the membrane from abrasion caused by contact of the carpet with the floor.
2. (Currently amended) A carpet according to claim 1, ~~further comprising a stabilizing layer located alongside said breathable membrane for dimensional stability of the carpet;~~ wherein the stabilizing layer consists essentially of interconnected yarns or fibers, plastic netting, or a grid of plastic.
3. (Original) A carpet according to claim 2, wherein the stabilizing layer comprises interconnected yarns having the form of cross-laid scrim or woven fibers.
4. (Original) A carpet according to claim 2, further comprising an adhesive disposed

between the tufting layer and the membrane.

5. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 4, wherein the adhesive is a layer fabricated as a water based adhesive emulsion.

6. (Original) A carpet according to claim 1, further comprising an adhesive disposed between the tufting layer and the membrane.

7. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is a layer fabricated as a water based adhesive emulsion.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A carpet according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 2, wherein the stabilizing layer comprises interconnected yarns having the form of cross-laid scrim, or interconnected fibers that are woven or nonwoven fibers.

10. (Currently amended) A carpet according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 2, further comprising an adhesive disposed between the tufting layer and the stabilizing layer.

11. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 10, wherein the adhesive is a layer fabricated as a water based adhesive emulsion.

12. (Currently amended) A carpet according to claim 10, wherein the ~~secondary~~ further backing layer comprises an apertured film laminated to the membrane on a side thereof opposite the tufting layer.

13. (Currently amended) A carpet according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~secondary~~ further backing layer comprises an apertured film laminated to the membrane on a side

thereof opposite the tufting layer.

14. (Currently amended) A carpet according to claim 1, ~~further comprising a stabilizing layer adjoining said breathable membrane, and wherein said breathable membrane and said stabilizing layer are located between said primary and said secondary backing layers;~~ wherein the stabilizing layer comprising comprises interconnected yarns having the form of cross-laid scrim, or interconnected fibers that are woven or nonwoven fibers.

15. (Currently amended) A carpet according to claim 14 wherein said ~~secondary further~~ backing is a synthetic material, a polymeric material, or a natural material.

16. (Currently amended) A carpet according to claim 14 wherein said ~~secondary further~~ backing is a foam or a padding.

17. (Original) A carpet according to claim 1 wherein the breathable membrane has a moisture vapor transmission rate of water through the membrane in a range of 50 - 2000 grams / square meter / 24 hours by Test Method ASTM E96 , Up-Cup Method with ambient conditions of 23 degrees C and a Relative Humidity of 50%.

18. (Currently amended) A carpet comprising:

a layer of tufting;

a primary backing layer receiving tufting of the tufting layer;

a breathable membrane impervious to liquid, the membrane being located on a side of the primary backing layer opposite the tufting layer, and wherein both the tufting layer and the primary backing layer are permeable to water vapor; and

a ~~secondary further~~ backing layer comprising a breathable apertured film for protecting the membrane from abrasion, the ~~secondary further~~ backing layer being ~~composed of breathable material~~ disposed on a side of the membrane opposite the primary backing layer for allowing transport of water vapor through the carpet from a floor covered by the carpet while

protecting the membrane from abrasion caused by contact of the carpet with the floor.

19. (Original) A carpet according to claim 18 wherein the breathable membrane is laminated to the primary backing layer.

20. (Original) A carpet according to claim 18 further comprising an adhesive disposed between the primary backing layer and the breathable membrane for securing the breathable membrane to the primary backing layer.

21. (Original) A carpet according to claim 18 further comprising a stabilizing layer located between said primary backing layer and said breathable membrane for dimensional stability of the carpet, wherein the stabilizing layer consists essentially of interconnected yarns or fibers, plastic netting, or a grid of plastic.

22. (Original) A carpet according to claim 21 wherein the stabilizing layer comprises interconnected yarns having the form of cross-laid scrim, or interconnected fibers that are woven or nonwoven fibers.

23. (Canceled)

24. (New) A carpet comprising:

a layer of tufting;

a primary backing layer receiving tufting of the tufting layer;

a breathable membrane impervious to liquid, the membrane being located on a side of the primary backing layer opposite the tufting layer, and wherein both the tufting layer and the primary backing layer are permeable to water vapor; and

at least one further backing layer for protecting the membrane from abrasion, the further backing layer being breathable and in contact with the membrane.